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KILKENNY CATS.

THE MEAT MONOPOLY IS AFTER THE SUGAR TRUST,

And the Bankers Cannot Agree as to the
Best Plan of Robbing the Dear
People.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—For many days it has been known here that the Western cattle interests, representing an invested capital of not less than 500 million dollars, are about to grapple in a death-lock struggle with the sugar trust, and that the direction of the fighting is to be lodged with P. D. Armour, Nelson Morris and Swift, the Chicago kings of the meat trade.

The United States is to be the battle ground, and unless the program miscarries the encounter between these colossal interests will furnish the crowning sensation of the short session of congress. Free sugar is a necessity for free exportation of meat products to the great consuming markets of Europe. The imposition of a duty on sugar was promptly met by the raising of an embargo against American beef by Germany and Denmark and the spirit of retaliation is being encouraged by other foreign nations with menacing heartiness. The merits of this question have been pretty thoroughly acceded and mention is only required in this connection to emphasize the point that Germany has indicated clearly that she does not propose to recede from the position taken with regard to American meats until the discrimination against the beet sugar interests of the German empire is removed. The German commercial intrigue is fanning the flame of hostility throughout Europe toward American meats and a renewal of the old vindictive and general warfare against the American meat products on the part of Old World nations is not only threatened but felt to be imminent. The American meat trade with foreign countries approximates 150 million dollars a year and anything that threatens its mighty business in a vital or important way instantly touches the pockets of one of the most powerful and fighting combinations in existence.

THE CURRENCY PRIMER CLASS.

On Saturday great interest was taken in the hearing on the question of banking and currency, by the committee.

Mr. Carlisle was present at the opening of the session. The bankers to be heard reported two widely divergent views. President G. G. Williams of the Chemical National bank of New York represented the prevailing views among bankers, while W. P. St. John of the

Mercantile bank of New York represented the Eastern view favorable to silver. The presence of Mr. St. John had drawn Senator Teller to the hearing anxious to hear the views of an Eastern silver man on currency revision.

Chairman Springer read a letter from President Post of the York National Bank of York, Neb., indorsing the Carlisle plan.

Representative Johnson (rep., Ind.) asked why this letter was chosen to be read when many letters giving different views were received. It was explained that this was the only letter received from a national bank indorsing the Carlisle plan.

There was some sparring over the letter and Mr. Springer withdrew it.

There was added interest in the statement of Mr. Williams, who opened the hearing, from the fact that the bank of which he is president has the largest deposits in the United States, if not in the world. "The situation is one requiring firmness and common sense," he said. "The first problem in our clumsy and conglomerate financial system is the disposition to be made of all our legal-tender notes."

He urged that these notes be funded 50 millions at a time until they were eliminated from our financial system. Bonds at 3 per cent. should be received as security of national bank notes on a basis of par for the bonds, the government to have a first lien on the assets of the bank. These notes should be redeemable in New York city and when issued in sufficient volume and being readily convertible, would furnish adequate elasticity to the currency. The tax on the circulation of national banks should at once be removed.

Mr. Williams was questioned as to the condition of his own bank. He said its capital was \$300,000. It has a surplus of \$600,000. The undivided profits were more than 1 million dollars. The deposits reached 30 million dollars, probably the largest in the United States, if not in the world. The dividends were 150 per cent. annually. The bank stock sold for \$4,300 per share of \$1,000.

President St. John lent much spirit to the hearing by the vigor of his statement and its novelty as coming from an Eastern banker. "Under official dictation," he began, "tutored by the one most aggressive of our handful of 'gold-ites' in the United States, congress fiddles with bank notes while the burning issue is our primary money, coin."

"Identically tutored, our chief executive has required his secretary to abandon the option conferred by the law upon the United States and grant to holders of the United States notes the right to exact gold always, silver never, as their redeeming coin. Had the op-

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CONTEMPT OF COURT.

DEBS AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE FOUND GUILTY

Of What Nine-tenths of the American
Have in Their Hearts—Contempt
of Woods' Court.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—The trial of Eugene V. Debs and other American Railway union leaders for contempt of court was finished yesterday in Federal Judge Wood's court, and the defendants were found "guilty as charged." Though the finding has caused some surprise over the country, it was expected among the lawyers here.

The finding of the court is that the defendants are guilty of contempt, but that any punishment inflicted would not be cumulative. In other words, there were two cases before the court, one for contempt, and the other for violation of the federal statute. The latter cause, is merged into the former.

Debs was sentenced to six months in the county jail. The others on trial were given three months each, except McVane who was released because there was no evidence against him.

Judge Woods, after announcing that the defendants were found guilty as charged, said it was not in accordance with procedure in such cases to permit the defendants to say why sentence should not be passed, but in this case the court would allow it.

Attorney Darrow, representing the defendants, asked that his clients might retire for a consultation regarding what they should say, and after a brief recess the strike leaders filed back into court, ranging themselves before the bench.

Attorney Darrow, speaking for them, said that they had no wish to make separate speeches, but felt they had done no wrong. The attorney advised the court that Director McVane, one of the defendants, was out of the city during the strike.

A lengthy argument between attorneys followed over the proposition to discriminate in McVane's favor, which the court terminated by suspending sentence on McVane.

Wants An Export Bounty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The committee on agriculture gave a hearing to David Lubin of Sacramento, in connection with the investigation now being made by that committee of the causes of the present depressed condition of agriculture. Mr. Lubin is a prominent member of the California grange. He presents a novel and interesting plan for the relief of the farmer, based upon the theory that the agriculturists whose products were sold

in the free trade markets of the world should be compensated for the increase in the price of what he buys which is sold in a protected market by the levy of an export bounty on staple agricultural products, like wheat, corn, cotton, etc. He explained his plan, which he said would stimulate agriculture by increasing the price of exported farm products and by reaction of the price of such products sold in this country. Last year about 800 million dollars of agricultural products were exported. This was about a third of the total product. If an export bounty of say 10 per cent. had been levied for the benefit of the farmer, the latter would have received 80 million dollars more for his products exported, and the effect of this bounty on the home price would have, in his opinion increased the value of the product sold in this country 160 millions. In his argument Mr. Lubin presented those arguments against as well as for the plan. He will be given a further hearing after the holidays.

Gold a Fleeting Show.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The French line steamer La Champsagne, which sails at 4 this afternoon, will carry the second largest shipment of gold ever taken across the Atlantic ocean by one of her vessels. The value of the metal which is now locked in the vaults on the ship is \$3,580,500. The big shipment was made in 1889 and amounted to \$4,700,000.

Those who are sending gold to-day are Lazard Freres, \$1,500,000; Heidebach, Isckelheimer & Co., \$500,000; Ledenburg, Thalman & Co., \$500,000; Baring, Magous & Co., \$500,000, and Hooker, Wood & Co., \$580,500.

A tramp entered the palatial New York residence of Mrs. William Astor, and all unseen went to bed without taking a bath or undressing. He was arrested and fined \$5 in police court. John Jacob Astor, in his contempt for a man who would enter a house and not try to steal something, had the man re-arrested and sentenced to a year in the pen. The man will take warning and not be so in-offensive hereafter.

The American Federation of Labor has been in annual session at Denver the past week, settling troubles such as usually arise in such bodies and adopting a platform of principles. The most spirited discussion was over the question of socialism. On John McBride, president of the Mine Workers' union, was elected president to succeed Samuel Gompers.

The Esterly Harvester Co., at Minneapolis, Minn., went into the hands of an assignee last Saturday, with liabilities of \$385,000. The company was putting up new factory buildings last year when it was struck by the panic, from which it never recovered.